

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A portable telephone comprising:
 - 2 a transceiver for transmitting and receiving data;
 - 3 a display device; and
 - 4 control circuitry coupled to the transceiver and the display device,
 - 5 wherein the control circuitry is configured to enable the portable telephone to
 - 6 send and receive electronic mail messages and voice messages using the
 - 7 transceiver, wherein the control circuitry is further configured to cause a
 - 8 graphical user interface to be displayed on the display device, the graphical
 - 9 user interface allowing a user to access stored electronic mail messages and
 - 10 voice messages from a single display screen rendered on the display device.
- 1 2. A portable telephone according to claim 1, wherein the portable telephone
- 2 is a cellular telephone of the hand-held variety.
- 1 3. A machine-implemented method of allowing a user to reply to a stored
- 2 message, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 3 receiving a user input selecting the message, the message having been
 - 4 received from a source;
 - 5 in response to the user input, automatically entering an appropriate
 - 6 one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source of the message.
- 1 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the message can be either an
- 2 electronic mail message or a voice message.

10 in response to the user input, automatically entering an appropriate
11 one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier.

1 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of automatically entering
2 an appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier
3 comprises the step of automatically entering either an electronic mail reply
4 mode or a voice reply mode based on the source identifier.

1 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the source identifier comprises
2 Caller ID information, and wherein the step of automatically entering an
3 appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier
4 further comprises the step of using the Caller ID information to identify the
5 source identifier as a telephone number.

1 11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the source identifier comprises a
2 telephone number, and wherein the step of automatically entering an
3 appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier
4 further comprises the step of:

5 receiving Caller ID information specifying the telephone number; and
6 automatically initiating a dial-out sequence using the Caller ID
7 information in response to receiving the user input.

1 12. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of automatically
2 entering an appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source
3 identifier further comprises the step of

4 identifying the source identifier as an electronic mail address; and
5 automatically selecting and displaying on the display device an
6 appropriate reply form for the electronic mail address in response to the user
7 input.

1 13. A method of enabling a user of a wireless telephone communication
2 device to reply to a received message, the method comprising the step of
3 transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the
4 wireless telephone communication device, the sequences of instructions
5 including instructions which, when executed on the wireless telephone
6 communication device, cause the wireless telephone communication device
7 to perform the method recited in claim 8.

1 14. In a wireless hand-held telephone communication device, a method of
2 processing outgoing telephone calls, the method comprising the steps of:
3 receiving user inputs for initiating an outgoing call, the user inputs
4 specifying a destination telephone number;
5 in response to the user inputs, automatically referencing the
6 destination telephone number against a database to determine whether the
7 destination telephone number is currently appropriate.

1 15. A method according to claim 14, outputting a message to a user according
2 to whether the destination telephone number is determined to be currently
3 appropriate.

1 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the step of outputting a message
2 to a user according to whether the destination telephone number is
3 determined to be currently appropriate comprises the step of outputting the
4 message prior to executing the outgoing call.

1 17. A method according to claim 16, the method further comprising the steps
2 of waiting for a second user input before executing the call, wherein the
3 second user input is in response to the outputting of the message.

1 18. A method according to claim 14, the database maintaining a plurality of
2 telephone numbers and a set of times for which each of the telephone
3 numbers is appropriate.

1 19. A method of enabling a wireless hand-held telephone communication
2 device to process outgoing telephone calls, the method comprising the step of
3 transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the
4 communication device, the sequences of instructions including instructions
5 which, when executed on the communication device, cause the portable
6 communication device to perform the method recited in claim 14.

1 20. A portable telephone comprising:
2 means for receiving user inputs for initiating an outgoing call, the user
3 inputs specifying a destination telephone number; and
4 means for accessing a database, the database including a set of
5 telephone numbers and a set of times for which each of the telephone

6 numbers is appropriate, to determine if the destination telephone number is
7 currently appropriate.

1 21. A portable telephone according to claim 20, further comprising means for
2 outputting a message if the destination telephone number is determined not
3 to be currently appropriate.

1 22. A portable telephone according to claim 20, further comprising:
2 a display device; and
3 means for generating a graphical user interface using the display
4 device.

1 23. In a portable telephone communication device, a method of conveying
2 current call information to a user, the method comprising the step of
3 displaying an animated indication of a duration of a current communication
4 session on a display device.

1 24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the animated indicator
2 comprises a non-alphanumeric graphical representation.

1 25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the indicator has the appearance
2 of an analog clock.

1 26. A method of enabling a portable telephone communication device to
2 convey current call information to a user, the method comprising the step of

3 transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the
4 communication device, the sequences of instructions including instructions
5 which, when executed on the communication device, cause the
6 communication device to perform the method recited in claim 23.

1 27. A wireless portable telephone comprising:

2 control circuitry;

3 a transceiver coupled to the control circuitry for transmitting and
4 receiving data over a wireless medium; and

5 a display coupled to the control circuitry;

6 wherein the control circuitry is configured to automatically cause
7 information to be scrolled across the display.

1 28. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the
2 information comprises text information scrolled horizontally across the
3 display.

1 29. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the
2 telephone is operable in any of a plurality of modes, and wherein the control
3 circuitry is further configured to select the content of the scrolled information
4 according to a currently selected mode.

1 30. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the
2 telephone is configured to receive messages using the transceiver and to store

3 the messages, and wherein the scrolled information comprises information
4 indicating the presence of a received message.

31. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 30, wherein the scrolled
information further comprises information identifying the source of the
recorded message.

32. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 30, wherein the scrolled information further comprises information indicating the content of the recorded message.

33. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the scrolled information corresponds to data received from a remote source using the transceiver, the data previously requested by a user.

1 34. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 33, wherein the scrolled
2 ~~information is descriptive of the data received from the remote source.~~

35. A method of allowing a user to transmit a message in a portable telephone, the portable telephone including a display device, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving previously requested data from a remote source;
- displaying information representative of the previously requested data on the display device;

in response to a user input initiating a transmission mode, automatically selecting a form for a message to be transmitted based on a content of the displayed information at the time the user input is received.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the portable telephone is configured to send and receive electronic mail messages; and
wherein the step of automatically selecting a form for a message to be transmitted comprises the step of automatically selecting a form for an outgoing electronic mail message based on a content of the displayed information at the time the user input is received.

37. A method of enabling a portable telephone to allow a user to transmit a message, the method comprising the step of transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the portable telephone, the sequences of instructions including instructions which, when executed on the portable telephone, cause the portable telephone to perform the method recited in claim 35.

38. A method of allowing a user to transmit a message in a portable telephone, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving data from a remote source;
- monitoring the content of the data for predetermined content; and
- in response to detecting the predetermined content, automatically entering a mode for allowing a user to transmit a message from the telephone.

39. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of automatically entering a mode for allowing a user to transmit a message from the telephone comprises the step of automatically selecting a message to be transmitted in response to detecting the predetermined content.

40. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of automatically entering a mode for allowing a user to transmit a message from the telephone comprises the step of automatically selecting a format of a message to be transmitted in response to detecting the predetermined content.

41. A method according to claim 40, wherein the telephone is configured to send and receive electronic mail messages and to display received electronic mail messages to a user; and

4 wherein the step of automatically selecting a format of a message to be
5 transmitted comprises the step of automatically selecting a form for an
6 outgoing electronic mail message in response to detecting the predetermined
7 content.

42. A method of enabling a portable telephone to allow a user to transmit a message, the method comprising the step of transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the portable telephone, the sequences of instructions including instructions which, when executed on the portable telephone, cause the portable telephone to perform the method recited in claim 38.

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